

Racial and ethnic distribution of elementary and secondary students

Changes in the racial/ethnic composition of students may change the degree of heterogeneity of language and culture in the Nation's schools. While variety in student backgrounds and interests can enhance the learning environment, it can also create new or increased challenges for the schools. Knowledge of the shifting racial/ethnic distribution of public elementary and secondary students can give schools the foresight to plan for these challenges.

- Thirty-five percent of students enrolled in grades 1–12 in public schools were considered to be part of a minority group in 1995, an increase of 11 percentage points from 1976. This increase was largely due to the growth in the percentage of Hispanic students (see supplemental table 43-1).
- Since 1970, approximately one out of every three students in central city public schools has been black. In 1995, 11 percent of the students in metropolitan area public schools outside of central cities were black, up from 6 percent in 1970.
- In 1995, approximately one out of every four students in central city public schools was Hispanic, up from approximately one out of every ten students in 1972.
- The percentage of black and Hispanic students enrolled in private schools increased between 1972 and 1995, rising from 5 percent each for both black and Hispanic students in 1972 to 10 percent for black students and 7 percent for Hispanic students in 1995.

Percentage of students in grades 1–12 who are black or Hispanic, by control of school and metropolitan status: 1970–95

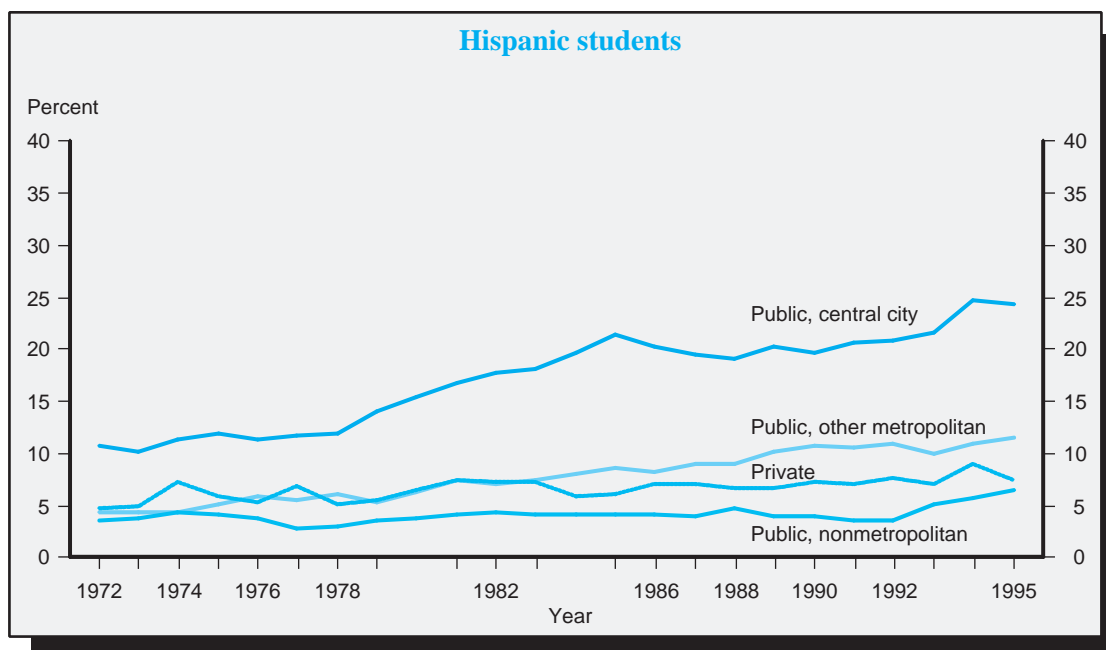
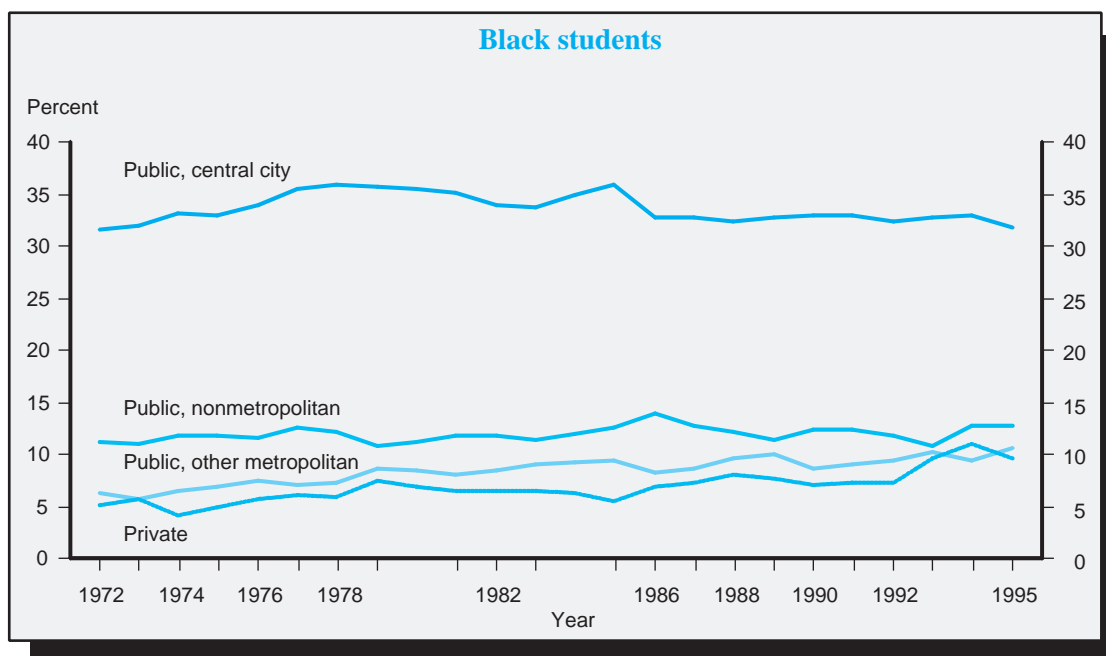
Year	Black					Hispanic				
	Public schools					Public schools				
	Total	Central cities	Other metro-politan	Non-metro-politan	Private schools	Total	Central cities	Other metro-politan	Non-metro-politan	Private schools
1970	14.8	32.5	6.2	12.0	4.7	—	—	—	—	—
1972	14.9	31.7	6.3	11.3	5.2	5.8	10.8	4.4	3.6	4.7
1974	15.4	33.2	6.6	11.8	4.3	6.2	11.4	4.4	4.4	7.3
1976	16.0	34.0	7.6	11.7	5.8	6.6	11.4	5.9	3.7	5.4
1978	16.1	35.9	7.4	12.3	6.0	6.4	11.9	6.1	3.0	5.2
1979	16.1	35.8	8.8	10.9	7.5	6.8	14.0	5.3	3.5	5.5
1982	16.2	34.0	8.6	11.9	6.6	8.7	17.7	7.0	4.3	7.3
1985	17.0	36.0	9.5	12.7	5.6	10.1	21.5	8.6	4.2	6.1
1986	16.7	32.9	8.3	14.1	6.9	10.6	20.2	8.3	4.1	7.0
1988	16.8	32.4	9.8	12.2	8.2	10.8	19.2	9.0	4.7	6.7
1990	16.5	33.1	8.8	12.5	7.2	11.6	19.8	10.8	4.0	7.2
1991	16.7	33.0	9.2	12.4	7.3	11.7	20.6	10.5	3.5	7.1
1992	16.7	32.5	9.5	11.9	7.4	11.9	20.8	10.9	3.6	7.7
1993	16.7	32.9	10.4	10.9	9.8	11.9	21.6	9.9	5.1	7.1
1994	16.8	33.0	9.6	12.9	11.1	13.4	24.7	11.1	5.8	9.1
1995	17.1	31.8	10.7	12.8	9.7	14.0	24.3	11.6	6.5	7.4

— Not available.

NOTE: The Current Population Survey (CPS) definition of metropolitan areas in the United States was changed in 1985. For data through 1984, metropolitan areas are defined on the basis of the 1970 census. A small number of students are both black and Hispanic (less than 1 percent).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, "Level of Enrollment Below College for Persons 3 to 24 Years Old, by Control of School, Metropolitan Status, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin," various years, and October Current Population Surveys.

**Percentage of students in grades 1–12 who are black or Hispanic,
by control of school and metropolitan status: 1972–95**



NOTE: Data for control of school were not available in 1980 and data for residence of students were not available in 1984. The Current Population Survey (CPS) definition of metropolitan areas in the United States was changed in 1985. For data through 1984, metropolitan areas are defined on the basis of the 1970 census. A small number of students are both black and Hispanic (less than 1 percent).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, "Level of Enrollment Below College for Persons 3 to 24 Years Old, by Control of School, Metropolitan Status, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin," various years, and October Current Population Surveys.

Table 43-1 Percentage distribution of enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools, by race/ethnicity: 1976–95

Race/ethnicity	1976	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992*	1993*	1994*	1995*	1976–95
										Change in percentage points
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	—
White, non-Hispanic	76.0	71.2	70.4	70.7	67.8	66.7	66.1	65.6	64.8	-11.2
Total minority	24.0	28.8	29.6	29.3	32.1	33.3	34.0	34.4	35.1	11.1
Black, non-Hispanic	15.5	16.2	16.1	15.2	16.2	16.5	16.6	16.7	16.8	1.3
Hispanic	6.4	9.1	9.9	10.1	11.5	12.3	12.7	13.0	13.5	7.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.5
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.3

— Not applicable.

* Data are from the Common Core of Data (CCD) survey.

NOTE: Data shown in this table are taken from surveys other than the Current Population Surveys (CPS) and are not comparable to the data in other tables of this analysis. Enrollment includes kindergarten students and a small number of prekindergarten students. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Elementary and Secondary School Civil Rights Survey, 1976, 1984, 1986, 1988, and 1990; National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data Survey, 1992; and *Digest of Education Statistics, 1995, 1996, and 1997*, table 45.

Table S43 **Standard errors for the text table in *Indicator 43***

Year	Black					Hispanic				
	Public schools					Public schools				
	Total	Other		Non-metro-politan	Private schools	Total	Other		Non-metro-politan	Private schools
		Central cities	metro-politan				Central cities	metro-politan		
1970	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.4	—	—	—	—	—
1972	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4
1974	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5
1976	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5
1978	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.5
1979	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.5
1982	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.6
1985	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.6
1986	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.6
1988	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.8
1990	0.3	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.7
1991	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.7
1992	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.7
1993	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.7
1994	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.8
1995	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.7

— Not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-20, "Level of Enrollment Below College for Persons 3 to 24 Years Old, by Control of School, Metropolitan Status, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin," various years, and October Current Population Surveys.